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# Reveal CIA read Nixon's mail!

By Harry Kelly

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WASHINGTON — Central Intelligence Agency counterspies intercepted and read the overseas mail of such political figures as Sen. Hubert Humphrey [D., Minn.], Sen. Edward M. Kennedy [D., Mass.], the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and Richard M. Nixon, the chairman of the Senate's Intelligence Committee disclosed Wednesday.

The committee chairman, Sen. Frank Church [D., Idaho] said even a letter he wrote to his mother-in-law back in Boise while he was on a Moscow visit was opened.

This mail was intercepted even tho the names of the senders were not on the CIA counter intelligence "watch list." The existence of which was disclosed previously.

THE SENATE Select Committee on Intelligence will hold hearings, Church said, to learn why such mail was "regularly opened and scrutinized by the CIA against the laws of the country."

The committee put off action on a motion to request or demand that former President Nixon appear to tell exactly what he knew or didn't know about domestic spying, including the opening of mail.

The CIA's former counterintelligence chief, James J. Angleton, said the mail openings disclosed by Church were "very much in error."

But he said his 31 years as an intelligence officer have taught him that the mail-opening operation is an "indispensable" weapon against those who consider the United States their principal enemy.

THE SALLOW, stooped counterspy cited the case of Kathy Boudin, 32, who was seen fleeing a Weatherman "bomb factory" in a Greenwich Village townhouse after it blew up.

All the FBI knew about her, Angleton said, was that she was running from the building after the 1970 explosion.

But by turning to its mail-cover records the CIA was able to learn that Miss Boudin had written about 30 letters to friends from Moscow. She escaped into the radical underground and is still a fugitive on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted list.

Church disclosed the new mail interceptions in an opening statement at Wednesday's hearing, which again concentrated on the so-called Huston plan for domestic spying.

Church told newsmen after the hearing that the one case of opening Nixon's mail involved a 1968 letter from Raymond Price, a former newsman and speechwriter who was writing to Nixon from Moscow. The letter commented on the likelihood of Nixon's election, Church said.

Church said the letter of his that was opened was written in 1971.

THE ISSUE being investigated by the committee is whether the CIA and the rest of the intelligence community were misleading Nixon by proposing in the Huston plan that he approve illegal intelligence techniques—such as mail openings—which they were already doing.

Altho the Huston plan argued for mail openings, Church pointed out that the CIA had been conducting such a program for 20 years.